N 135 famous salt basins in Northwest China. The latter is thirty-five miles in circumference and covered with a layer of fine salt two to six feet thick.

The Kilantai salt, commonly known as red salt, exports from T'eng-kou on the Yellow River to the markets of Shensi and Kansu (Ninghsia) each year, besides large amounts of salt.

The gypsum reserves have not been estimated by the geological survey of China, so no figures are available. The Northwest provinces of Shensi, Kansu, Chinghai, and Sinkiang are the principal producers. The Taklak gypsum deposit in S [135] Wen-su-hsien (41.19 by 79.50), Sinkiang, has been surveyed; with a ten meter thick bed, it is estimated the deposit contains more than 100,000,000 tons. Another gypsum bed at Pai-ch'eng, Kucha (41.45 by 83.04), with a five-foot bed, is estimated to contain 11,000,000 metric tons. A gypsum bed twenty meters thick at Ha-chia-tsun (36.17 by 63.33) in Yung-teng-hsien (36.44 by 103.24), Kansu province, was estimated to contain 500,000,000 metric tons of gypsum. A gypsum bed at Hsi-ning-hsien (36.37 by 101.49), Chinghai province, covers fifty square kilometers with the gypsum bed running from ten to thirty meters.

(See Tables X and XI.)

b. Borax:

N 317 Borax is produced in Chinghai province by gathering the top soil near saline lakes or dried-up lake basins, the "Tsaidams." The salts are boiled, and the liquid is evaporated. These crude salts are sent to Huang-yüan-hsien (36.42 by 101.13) for refining and separation of the borax. Raw materials are gathered in Tsaidam Basin, at K'o-erh-ko (36.35 by 100.12) and other places.

Amonium chloride is often found as a residue where Jurassic coal beds have burned out the coal seams. At Ko-hsi-erh-ta-ko and Sa-mu-chi-ta-ko in Kucha county (41.45 by 83.04), Sinkiang, S [317] ammonium chloride is dug and sold to silver workers for welding; the amount is small. At the Wu-chi-kou coal mine S [433] (39.01 by 106.03) Ping-lo-hsien, Ninghsia, production is over ten kilograms of ammonium chloride a year. Production can be increased if demand is warranted.

c. Jade and other precious Stones.

S 135 Jade and precious and semi-precious stones such as rubies, topaz, jasper, sapphires and emeralds are found and produced in Sinkiang, particularly along the Kunlun mountains in the southern S [439] part of the province. They are imported via Yümen (which literally means Jade Gate) at the extreme northwest of the Kansu corridor, to the rest of China.

1: Washington S-4 (no date) 1956 AF13 Northwest China AF13

131
135
• 317
433
635

TABLE X. Distribution of Salt and its Production in Ningsia, Kansu and Chinghai Provinces in 1942 and 1943 (Production in metric tons) Source: Stephens, Harre E. : N. W. salt, American Embassy, Lanchow, Kansu, China, Jan. 29, 1945)

Province	Field of Deposit	Lat. & Long.	1942 Production	Total	1943 Prod.	Total
Ninghsia	Tsa-han-chih (Lake).	38.20x104.42	39,040		30,244	
	Ho-twen-chih "	39.24x104.40	9,400		12,381	
	Ya-pu-lai "		10,500		5,600	
	Chi-lan-tai "	39.40x105.43	16,200		2,089	
	Hui-on-pu (Earth)	37.28x106.41	175		750	
	Tung-hu-chih (Lake)	37.40x104.55	700		460	
	Ba-in-chih (Earth)(?)	38.18x104.15	35		254	
	Hung-yen-chih "	38.02x104.58	155		16	
				77,105		51,978
Kansu	Hsi-feng-chen(Lake)	35.45x107.28	2,700		5,004	
	Tsao-shan-chen "	35.20x107.59	1,500		2,712	
	Kao-tai (earth)	39.21x99.58	2,800		2,055	
	Chang-hsien "	34.38x104.40	1,400		1,076	
	Su-mu-shan "	38.30x103.20	500		815	
	Tang-chia-hai "(?)		330		453	
	Kan-yen-chih "		200		417	
	Yen-kuan "	34.18x105.19	420		393	
	Pai-tun-tzu "	37.30x104.05	750		367	
	Hsiao-hung-kou "	36.43x105.26	160		351	
	Ma-lien-ch'uan "	41.10 x94.47	425		347	
	Ma-chia-T'sun	36.18x103.30	430		233	
	Lin-hsia	35.34x103.14	135		215	
	Hsia-ho (Lake)	35.12x102.30	20		174	
	La-pai (Earth)		290		112	

TABLE X. (Continued)

Province	Field of Deposit	Lat. & Long.	1942 production	Total	1943 prod.	Total
Kansu (Continued)						
	Pei-wen (Lake)	38.50x101.14	130		104	
	Liu-chia-wan(Earth)		100		51	
	Pa-pan		45		19	
				12,335		14,898
Chinghai	Cha-chia (Lake)	36.48x 39.23	1,700		2,427	
	She-an-tang(Earth)	36.23x102.53	25		28	
				1,725		2,455
	GRAND TOTAL			91,165		69,331

TABLE XI. Distribution of Gypsum Deposits of Northwest China by Province

Province	Field of Deposit	Location
Shensi	Lin-tung	34.24x109.13
Chinghai	Hsining	36.37x101.46
Kansu	Ha-chia-tsun, Yung-teng	36.37x103.33
Sinkiang	Wen-su	41.15x79.55
	Kuche	41.43x82.54
	Pai-cheng	41.46x81.52

TABLE XII. Population Increase of the Various Regions

Major Regions	No. Places Surveyed	No. Farm Families invest'd.	Birth Rate*	Death Rate*	Natural Increase
Northwest	14	5,648	35.0	22.0	11.5
North China	26	10,816	40.2	26.6	13.6
Lower Yangtze	21	9,849	38.5	28.3	10.1
Southwest	20	5,343	46.2	35.6	10.6
Southeast	12	4,540	37.7	31.2	6.5
	93	36,196	39.3	28.2	11.1

*per 1,000

1: Washington S-4 (no date) 1956 AF13 Northwest China AF13
Sinkiang All

3:Cable & French M-5 (1926) 1927
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forth in full cry, driving each camel to its own load, 000
which was promptly secured, to the accompaniment of groans and grunts from that morose animal.

As the disc of the sun fell behind the skyline the cavalcade moved off southwards; fainter and fainter came back the sound of the sonorous bells, and at last the long caravan disappeared into the dim, purple distance.

It is on the occasion of such an encounter that the missionary feels keenly how much he owes to the work of the Bible and Tract Societies. This scholarly man had been delighted to accept, not only well-bound and well-printed copies of the Gospels, but a whole sheaf of leaflets, each one of which presented some side of Christian truth in an intelligent and literary form. No experience in life affords a better opportunity for facing spiritual issues than does the enforced quiet of a long journey, for this student had already been fifty days travelling by night and resting by day, amid the vast silence and space of the desert, and many more such stages lay ahead, giving him time for deep, concentrated thought.

By means of that mysterious sixth sense the Chinese use for picking up secret information, our carter met us on our return to the temple with the news that a robbery was expected to-night in Camel-Town, and consequently we must forthwith depart. 'The mules are already harnessed,' he said. 'Those two men are up to mischief, and we must be clear of this place before dark!' Realising that all argument was useless, and that our fatigue must be overcome, we had to embark anew on a long night-stage, without the slightest chance of sleep being possible.

Three stages from Suchow, we passed a hamlet which 317 ●
takes its name from a salt lake lying about a mile

3:Cable & French M-5 (1926) 1927
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distant. We made a détour to visit this, and questioned a band of workmen we found on its border, raking the white crust into glittering mounds. They informed us that every year, in the month of April, the water wells up to its highest level, gradually retreating during the summer, and leaving behind the crystals, which are so clean and pure as to require no further process than that of being exposed to the sun's rays. Strange to say, however, the spring of drinking-water used by the villagers is perfectly sweet.

The inhabitants of Salt Lake village possess the right to a certain tax on every cartload of salt exported, but as usual opium has killed all initiative, and these unhappy people are reduced to an abject state of poverty. The miserable houses, however, are constructed of very endurable material, the blocks being of sun-dried, bituminous clay dug from the borders of the lake, and which are much harder than the kiln-burnt bricks commonly used in Kansu.

It had been reported to us that a Christian Chinese couple resided here, the husband being the official recently appointed by the Chinese Government to receive the salt tax. This lady and gentleman hearing we were there, invited us to their house and we were cordially welcomed into a delightful Christian home. It was indeed pleasant to sit down at a well-served table, and to enjoy once again Christian fellowship and intercourse. These refined people were living under conditions of the utmost isolation, where all food-supplies had to be brought from Kaotai, as it is impossible to grow any grain or vegetables; indeed, the neighbourhood produces no commodity of any description whatever except salt.

And now at length we finally touched the extreme southern border of our objective, and passed, without